85. The information given in the following statement is in accordance with paragraph 11 of Government Resolution No. 1899 of the 15th March 1891 :—

No.	Division.	Number of complaints disposed of under Section 67.	Number of cases in which compensation has been accepted.	Number of appeals against the proceedings.	Manner in which appeals have been disposed of.	Remarks.
1	East Thána ...	187	173	...	...	In 14 cases offenders were let off with a warning.
2	West Thána ..	150	122	...	...	„ 28 do. do.
3	Surat	25	17	...	...	„ 8 do. do.
4	Panch Mahála ...	129	107	...	...	„ 22 do. do.
	Total ...	491	419	...	...	72

(*b*) (2) *Protection from Fire.*

86. The results of the year's fire protection as compared with those of the year 1891-92 are shown below :—

No.	Division.	Forest area placed under protection against fire.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.		Remarks.
		1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
1	East Thána ...	377,780	451,956	10,420	18,515	2·7	4·09	For the purpose of this statement, Váda Táluka is included in East Thána.
2	West Thána ...	436,398	358,719	8,613	5,462	1·9	1·5	
3	Surat	477,913	478,141	432,583	434,990	90·5	90·9	
4	Panch Mahála ...	200,109	213,575	10,133	3,944	5·06	1·8	
	Total ...	1,492,200	1,502,391	460,630	462,911	30·8	30·7	

87. The past season was an exceptionally favourable one for the prevention of forest fires. Late rains kept the grass green till well into the cold weather and few fires were reported before the first week in January, the hot weather was also milder than usual, rain fell in May—which all tended to shorten the period of the fair season.

88. On the recommendation of the Commissioner, N. D., Government sanctioned in their Resolution No. 757, dated 27th January 1893, the adoption, in all the other divisions of this Circle, of the practice introduced in the Thána District two years ago of reporting at once each forest fire to the Collector on a post card by the nearest literate forest subordinate. The action taken by the Revenue head of the district on receipt of those reports has produced a very good effect on the officers under him, *viz.*, that they now understand that they are expected to give every assistance in extinguishing fires and help the forest protective staff in tracing their causes,—matters which were only dimly recognised before. This system has now taken a firm root in Thána and may be said to have passed the experimental stage. In villages where before forest guards had difficulty in inducing people to turn out to aid in suppressing fires, the latter turn out of their own accord in the absence even of a forest subordinate directly they find that a fire has burst out in their forest.

89. In the Panch Mahála and Surat divisions, in which the system described above has only been recently introduced, the good results noticed in Thána were not apparent, but when it has had time to develope itself, there is no

doubt that Revenue subordinates and villagers will co-operate with the forest staff in exactly the same manner.

90. It is satisfactory to note that greater activity was displayed in all divisions for carrying out fire-protection measures, and if the figures of the previous year had been as correct as those of that under report, considerable improvement would have been noticeable at first sight.

91. *East Thána.*—Out of the 159 fires reported, 65 occurred in the Tánsa basin forests and which are responsible for two-thirds of the area burnt in this division. Mr. Sinclair, the Collector, remarks in his review of the divisional report that

"Last report's figures were particularly unreliable in this division, as it could not be made out, after Mr. Osmaston's departure on sick leave, what months were included in his fire year. My own suspicion is that they were only the months of November and December 1891 and January, February and March 1892. The diaries showed ample reason for supposing the areas to be much underestimated in the fire reports, which are now rather more accurate. The figures of the present report will form a point of departure for the future."

92. There is no doubt, however, that as long as the protective staff remains at its present strength, it can hardly be hoped that the fires in the forests on the Tánsa Lake catchment area can be checked to an appreciable extent. The villages having been depopulated, and the distance to be traversed to get round the lake from one point to another being great, it is exceedingly difficult to procure assistance to extinguish fires. When the reorganization of the subordinate pretective establishments is sanctioned, it will be imperative to at least double the number of forest guards in this neighbourhood to protect these forests efficiently from fire.

93. *West Thána.*—Exclusive of the Váda Range, which now forms part of the East Thána Division, there were 155 fires of the year running over 5,462 acres against 163 burning 7,400 in 1891-92. The prominent feature in the fire conservancy of this division was the excellent fire discipline maintained by the Divisional Forest Officer whereby a large number of the fires reported during the year were speedily extinguished before they had time to get out of hand. These satisfactory results reflect great credit on Mr. Millett, the Divisional Forest Officer, and on Mr. Rebeiro, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, and Range Forest Officer Hassanalli Mahomedally. The last-named officer bears the palm for fire protection. In his Range (Dáhánu) not only is the area burnt considerably less than in the previous year, but the origin of 7 out of the 28 fires of the year was traced, and the offenders punished.

94. *Surat.*—The fires in the leased forests of the Dángs have proved no less disastrous than in previous years. By the beginning of April they had swept over the whole area, not once but twice and three times. So long as the policy of not interfering with the privileges of hunting, collecting mhowra flowers, smoking rats in their holes enjoyed by the Bhils and other wild tribes unrestrictedly is allowed to continue, fire-protective measures will be of no avail in these valuable forests. Considerable laxity seems to have prevailed in reporting forest fires in the Mándvi Range during the last two years, and the figures as regards the area burnt over in the past cannot be relied on. In the beginning of the year, if it had not been pointed out to the Divisional Forest Officer that the fire reports were most of them grossly inaccurate, several fires would not have been reported at all, or not till long after the event. Mr. Wallinger, however, took great pains and has carefully gone over the range, so that the area burnt during the year in Mándvi may be taken as pretty accurate. The principal difficulties to be met with are, that the eastern portion of this range, a block of 12,900 acres, in which most of the fires occurred, is unpopulated and conterminous with the Gáekwár's territory. Great vigilance was, however, exercised for preventing the fires from sweeping down from the latter, and no single fire of the year proved disastrous. It is also satisfactory to record that whereas the origin of not a single fire was traced ever before in this division, during the year under report, in five cases the person by whose action the forest was fired was detected and punished.

95. *Panch Mahâls.*—There is a marked improvement in this division, as the area traversed by fire is considerably less than in the previous year, the figures being 3,944 acres as against 10,133 in the year 1891-92. The Divisional Forest Officer, however, reports that several of the fires of the year "have the character of being exceptionally large." This will be remedied when the object for which the reporting of forest fires to the Collector directly on their occurrence is better understood by the Revenue subordinates and the people at large.

96. The expenditure incurred, during the year of this report, on burning fire lines, rewards to villagers on rendering prompt assistance in putting out fires, &c., is compared with that of the preceding year in the following statement:—

No.	Division.	Expenditure.		Remarks.
		1891-92.	1892-93.	
1	East Thâna	701	1,576	
2	West Thâna	2,364	2,029	
3	Surat	43	186	
4	Panch Mahâls	2	...	
	Total ...	3,110	3,791	

(*b*) (*3*). *Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.*

97. The revised rules for the regulation of grazing published under Government Resolution No. 3595, dated 23rd May 1890, are at present applied to the Bassein, Kalyán and Bhiwndi ranges in the Thâna District and to all the forest areas in Surat except the Dângs. The introduction of these rules in the Panch Mahâls Division was under contemplation, and it is hoped that they will soon be generally applied. On the working of the rules wherever they have been introduced, no complaint has been received during the year; but there is reason to fear that very many cattle enjoyed free grazing for which fees really ought to have been paid. This fault will gradually disappear and will give no trouble in the future, as there is a tendency not to put too liberal an interpretation on the rules.

98. In the two Thâna divisions only 104 out of 1,264 square miles are at present closed to grazing, but as the coupes of each year up to a limit of ten years are exploited, the proportion will increase.

99. The extent of closures in Surat is limited to only 28 square miles out of a total of 746¼. But exclusive of the Dângs the percentage of closed area is higher than anywhere else in this Circle, being 41. It is important to remember, however, that only in this division a close season from 16th March to 31st August for grazing has been observed for the last two years, and the people are commencing to learn to make provision of fodder to feed their cattle on during the time grazing is forbidden in the forests.

100. A third of the area under the management of the Forest Department is closed to grazing in the Panch Mahâls, but owing to the inefficiency of the protective staff the closures are not respected, and a great deal of illicit grazing is prevalent in this district than anywhere else in the Northern Circle.

101. The number of animals impounded during 1891-92 and 1892-93 for trespassing in open and closed forests is compared in the following table:—

No.	Division.	From open Forests.		From closed Forests.		Total.	
		1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.
1	East Thâna	18	421	680	1,260	698	1,681
2	West Thâna	286	67	1,553	1,598	1,839	1,665
3	Surat	23	314	379	927	402	1,241
4	Panch Mahâls... ...	1,595	1,464	122	226	1,717	1,690
	Total ...	1,922	2,266	2,734	4,011	4,656	6,277